UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Tavel

DATE: October 6, 1964

FROM : F. W. Walkart

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION -
USE OF AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING (ADP)
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA)

Reference is made to the attached clipping from the "Evening Star" dated 10-5-64 referring to testimony of John A. McCone, Director of CIA, before the Warren Commission suggesting that Federal agencies adopt computers and data processing to improve liaison. He referred to the fact that Chief Justice Warren had seen some of CIA's installations and this was only the beginning of what really could be done, although McCone emphasized that a computer would not replace the man. The Director inquired, "What about this process? H."

The CIA briefing of Chief Justice Warren and members of his Commission covering various aspects of the collection, indexing and dissemination of information was reported in a memorandum from Brennan to Sullivan dated 4-17-64 (62-109090-136). During this briefing, it was pointed out by a CIA representative that the FBI has the most effective manually operated filing system in the world.

In the attached article, McCone is apparently referring to a project that has been going on in CIA for a number of years referred to as "Walnut." This involves the alleged automation of a small segment of their records utilizing IBM equipment and punched cards. The estimated cost of this experiment is presently in excess of six million dollars and because of technical and other practical problems that have arisen, the program will not be completely activated for another year and a half, if then. We have been closely following and on occasion have observed this system as well as other developments in the field of automatic data processing. Through membership on the Committee on Documentation, U.S. Intelligence Board, we are also in close touch with efforts along this line throughout the entire Federal intelligence community. The chairman and secretary of this Committee incidentally are both employees of CIA and, while efforts are being made through this Committee to develop more sophisticated equipment that could ultimately handle large and complex records systems such as our own, none are in existence. McCone certainly, therefore, must be aware of the limitations of automatic data processing at this time. It is observed that he qualifies his

REC 10 62-109090-334

ENCLOSURE

OCT 26 1964

11 OCT 26 1964

RECORDS

CONTINUED - OVER

observations in this regard by emphasizing that computers will not replace man and in the complete exchange of information and cooperation between agencies who share mutual responsibilities. Also, on direct question from Commission Counsel J. Lee Rankin if he, McCone, believed methods for the exchange of information between Government intelligence agencies could be materially improved replied that he thought CIA exchanges with the FBI and the Secret Service "are quite adequate."

ACTION:

We will continue to follow with CIA and other intelligence agencies on developments in the field of computer and automatic data processing as they relate to records matters.

JFW 10/6